

## Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 H-01 DHA-05 /020 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S-JCTAYLOR:LFS  
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L/HR:CRUNYON

-----006959 011725Z /66

R 010947Z OCT 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
AMCONSUL DURBAN  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PINS, SHUM, SF

SUBJECT: DEATH OF STEVE BIKO - CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION

1. ELEVEN CONGRESSMEN, INCLUDING REPS MARKEY, DOWNEY, AND MAGUIRE, CALLED ON SOUTH AFRICA AMBASSADOR SOLE SEPTEMBER 23 IN CONNECTION WITH STEVE BIKO'S DEATH. THE MEETING WAS REPORTEDLY NOT TOO SATISFACTORY FROM THE CONGRESSMEN'S POINT OF VIEW.

2. AMONG THE SUBJECTS TOUCHED ON DURING THE MEETING WERE THE FOLLOWING:

--CONGRESSMEN ASKED FOR AN INDEPENDENT AUTOPSY. SOLE RESPONDED THAT THREE PHYSICIANS, INCLUDING ONE REPRESENTING THE FAMILY, WERE ALREADY INVOLVED IN THE AUTOPSY.

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--SOLE INDICATED THAT LEGAL ACTION MIGHT BE TAKEN AGAINST THE GUILTY PARTY OR PARTIES.

--SOLE EXPRESSED NO REGRET AT BIKO'S DEATH. HE ONLY REGRETTED THE MANNER IN WHICH THE CASE HAD BEEN HANDLED.

FYI: APPARENTLY THE ABSENCE OF ANY REMORSE ON SOLE'S PART

ANNOYED THE CONGRESSMEN MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE. END FYI.

3. ON SEPTEMBER 26, THE THREE CONGRESSMEN NAMED ABOVE SUBMITTED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE FOLLOWING CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, WHICH WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. TEXT FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DEATH OF STEVEN BIKO HAVE SHOCKED THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND THE WORLD COMMUNITY AT LARGE; AND

WHEREAS THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO DATE HAS NOT RELEASED ALL RELEVANT FACTS AND DATA BASED ON MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS ON THE CAUSE OF HIS DEATH; AND

WHEREAS NUMEROUS AND PERSISTENT REPORTS OF TORTURE AND INHUMAN TREATMENT OF PERSONS IN DETENTION CAN NO LONGER BE IGNORED; AND

WHEREAS INTERNATIONAL LAW, IN PARTICULAR THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, PROHIBITS THE ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE, TORTURE, AND CRUEL AND INHUMAN TREATMENT OF PERSONS: THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (THE SENATE CONCURRING), THAT IT IS THE SENSE OF THE UNITED STATES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONGRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD DIRECTLY REQUEST THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO PERMIT AN IMPARTIAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO INVESTIGATE THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DEATH OF STEVEN BIKO; BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THIS ORGANIZATION BE EMPOWERED TO INVESTIGATE ALSO THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND CONDITIONS OF ALL SOUTH AFRICANS CURRENTLY BEING HELD UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE TERRORISM ACT AND THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT TO INSURE THAT THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS ARE NOT BEING VIOLATED; BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THIS ORGANIZATION SHOULD REVIEW AND REPORT UPON THE ENTIRE QUESTION OF THE NATURE AND APPLICATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN LAWS RELATING TO THE DETENTION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.

CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** PINS, SHUM, SF, (MARKEY, EDWARD J), (DOWNEY, THOMAS J), (MAGUIRE, ANDREW), (BIKO, STEVE)  
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